Change Agents Unite!

Leveraging Your Skills and Power for Transformation Through Policy & Advocacy

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Office of Health Equity
California Department of Public Health
UC Global Health Day 2024
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@DrRohanRad
A solutions-centered framework for public health practitioners to directly address racism as a root cause in health disparities

2023: Policy Driving Global Health Achievements

March, 2023: WHO certified Azerbaijan & Tajikistan malaria-free

May, 2023: Benin & Mali eliminated trachoma, the leading infectious cause of blindness worldwide.

June, 2023: WHO certified Belize malaria-free

Laos eliminated lymphatic filariasis as a public health concern.

Bangladesh made history as the first country to eliminate two neglected tropical diseases in the same year.

June, 2023: Trachoma was eliminated in Iraq

Egypt became the first country in the world to achieve "gold tier" status on the path to eliminate hepatitis C

Sept, 2023: Brazil upheld indigenous people's rights to their ancestral land in a landmark ruling.

Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, and St. Kitts and Nevis decriminalized consensual same-sex relations.

Mauritius became the first country in Africa to put in place the full package of WHO tobacco control policies at the highest possible level.

WHO member states are grouped into six regions. The list of countries by regions is published here: https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/who-regions?tab=table

Data source: World Health Organization
BIGGEST GLOBAL HEALTH CHALLENGES

1. Healthcare access
2. Impact of climate change
3. Strengthening healthcare systems
4. Poverty and food security
5. Displacement and migration
6. North-South health inequities
7. Mental Health
8. Infectious diseases
9. Gender equity
10. Incorporation of non-Western knowledge
Our state’s diversity is one of our greatest assets.

Most diverse state in the nation. 27% (10.5 million) are foreign-born. CA remains one of the states receiving the largest # of refugees.

Recent immigrants in California are among the most educated residents in the state.

Racial diversity is growing in the California legislature.

Younger Californians are demographically distinct from older Californians. This generation will shape our future.

“The health of people around the globe is the health of California.”
- Governor Arnold Schwartzenegger

California is a microcosm for the globe, and we have the opportunity to learn and lead, here at home.

POLITICAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH
GLOBAL HEALTH TRENDS
SKILLS
SCIENCE TO ACTION
IMPACT

TRUST | RECOGNIZING & OWNING OUR POWER | POLICY & ADVOCACY

Inequality
Unequal access to opportunities

Equality?
Evenly distributed tools and assistance

Equity
Custom tools that identify and address inequality

Justice
Fixing the system to offer equal access to both tools and opportunities

Policies have and continue to directly contribute to health disparities.

1830
The Indian Removal Act & the Trail of Tears
The Indian Removal Act of 1830 led to the forced relocation of American Indian Tribes, resulting in the genocide of thousands, and the loss of homes and lands.

1907
American Eugenics & the Forced Sterilization of Women of Color & Low-Income Women
Eugenic sterilization laws that targeted low-income communities of color as well as people with disabilities.

1954
“Operation Wetback”
The derogatory termed “Operation Wetback” initiative resulted in the deportation of at least one million Mexican people.

2017
Muslim Travel Bans (Executive Order 13769 & 13780)
The Trump Administration’s policy actions prohibited travel and refugee resettlement from primarily Muslim-majority countries.

Health and Wealth inequities across Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) stations

The short distance between a few BART stations can mean an 11-year difference in life expectancy and dramatic differences in physical and economic well-being.

Legend
- Life expectancy at birth
- Median household income (each symbol = $25,000)
- Share of adults with a BA or higher (each symbol = 20%)
- Childhood asthma hospitalizations per 100,000 (each symbol = 100)
“What’s the point of treating people only to send them back to the conditions that make them ill?”

-Sir Michael Marmot

"Medicine is a social science"

"The physician is the natural attorney of the poor"

-Rudolf Virchow

Title 17 Section 1276 California Code & Regulations

"The health department shall offer …
(i) Services directed to the social factors affecting health …"
A PUBLIC HEALTH FRAMEWORK FOR REDUCING HEALTH INEQUITIES
BAY AREA REGIONAL HEALTH INEQUITIES INITIATIVE

UPSTREAM

SOCIAL INEQUITIES
- Class
- Race/ethnicity
- Immigration Status
- Gender
- Sexual Orientation

INSTITUTIONAL INEQUITIES
- Corporations & Businesses
- Government Agencies
- Schools
- Laws & Regulations
- Not-for-Profit Organizations

LIVING CONDITIONS
- Physical Environment
  - Land Use
  - Transportation
  - Housing
  - Residential Segregation
  - Exposure To Toxins
- Economic & Work Environment
  - Employment
  - Income
  - Retail Businesses
  - Occupational Hazards
- Social Environment
  - Experience of Class, Racism, Gender, Immigration
  - Culture - Ads - Media
  - Violence
- Service Environment
  - Health Care
  - Education
  - Social Services

RISK BEHAVIORS
- Smoking
- Poor Nutrition
- Low Physical Activity
- Violence
- Alcohol & Other Drugs
- Sexual Behavior

DISEASE & INJURY
- Communicable Disease
- Chronic Disease
- Injury (Intentional & Unintentional)

MORTALITY
- Infant Mortality
- Life Expectancy

DOWNSTREAM

Strategic Partnerships
Community Capacity Building
Community Organizing
Civic Engagement

Emerging Public Health Practice
Current Public Health Practice
Interventions into the structural determinants of health

- **Change belief** that housing is naturally a commodity to be owned, bought, and sold privately.
- **Change belief** that racial housing segregation occurs naturally or reflects only individual preference.

- **Build coalitions** between groups advancing housing justice (organized residents, service providers, affordable housing developers, etc.) across racial, minoritized, and other dimensions of shared or imposed identity.
- Organize people facing housing issues.

- **Change laws about land ownership** so community residents have more control (than developers).
- **Change laws, policies, and practices to prevent segregation, displacement and gentrification**

- **Require housing developments** to include a minimum number of affordable units.
- **Change zoning** to allow for construction of more multiunit housing to increase housing supply.
- **Increase budgets** for subsidized housing programs.
- Build more housing for low income residents near hospitals.

- **Provide shelter and services** for people who are unhoused (address a health-related social need).

Interventions into the social determinants of health

VISION: Everyone in California has equal opportunities for optimal health, mental health, and well-being.

MISSION: Promote equitable social, economic, and environmental conditions to achieve optimal health, mental health, and well-being for all.

CENTRAL CHALLENGE: Mobilize understanding and sustained commitment to eliminate health inequity and improve the health, mental health, and well-being for all.

STATUTE: Established in 2012, as authorized by Section 131019.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, to provide a key leadership role to reduce health and mental health disparities to disproportionately affected communities.

OHE PRIORITIES

1. Advancing Racial & Social Equity in Government
2. Behavioral Health Equity
3. Climate Action for Health Equity
4. Equitable COVID Recovery through Health in All Policies, Cross-Sector Planning and Partnerships
5. Housing & Homelessness
2023 California Equity Convening

Welcome and Wins

- Create Equitable Pandemic Recovery
- Heart Initiative
- Trauma Resilience Training
- Infrastructure and Staffing
- Change in Mindset and Practice
- Equity Has Become Front and Center
- Community Partnerships
- New Workforce
- Equity Leads at the Table
- Equity in Teams
- Integrating Upstream and Downstream
- Domains and Competencies for Continuous Improvement

This is 21st Century Public Health!

Rohan Radhakrishna
Tomás Aragón
Daniel Torres

September 6, 2023

Graphic Recording by Rio Holaday
Recognizing community expertise

Getting a variety of voices in the room

Trust

Impact
THE FRESNO CENTER: HMONG VILLAGE GRAND OPENING

https://fresnocenter.org/news/hmong-village/
SWEET POTATO PROJECT
WEST FRESNO FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER
https://www.wfresnofrc.org/sweet-potato-project
TRUST & TRAUMA
A growing mistrust in science, medicine, and public health


Dr. Radhakrishna Appointed Deputy Director of the Office of Health Equity at California Department of Public Health
written by ECT   |   Feb 26, 2021

15 COMMENTS

RICHARD

Feb 26, 2021 - 2:25 pm

When my wife was seen by him, I commented after to her that he was the best doctor that I'd ever met, in my 69 years. My wife agreed.

ELIZABETH STERN

Feb 26, 2021 - 5:21 pm

When will a doctor with a name like SAM JONES be appointed to head such an agency? Why is it always someone with an unpronounceable name — and a foreigner! I don't care how “good” he is. By the way, a patient really cannot judge a doctor to see whether he's competent or not. Only another doctor could do that.
“La vacunación no es solamente para algunos individuos, sino para toda la familia y este mural ayudará a que la comunidad entienda que la salud es parte de su cultura y estar sanos ayuda a todos”, agregó el doctor Radhakrishna.

“En comunidad podemos actuar todos para uno y uno para todos; el mural es parte del bilingüismo de Los Ángeles y es una herramienta poderosa para informar a la comunidad y recordar que no podemos bajar la guardia, porque solo una vacuna no es suficiente”.

“Clear, accurate, and timely risk communication can help build the public’s trust during a crisis, and so can investing in community engagement strategies to respond to the specific needs and concerns of marginalized subgroups”

- COVID-19 data from 177 countries/territories, and 181 subnational locations was extracted.
- Greater interpersonal and government trust associated with lower infection rates & higher vaccine coverage, among middle-income and high-income countries.

TRUST makes the difference.

Figure: Adjusted SARS-CoV-2 infection rate given low and high levels of electoral democracy and trust in government, from Jan 1, 2020, to Sept 30, 2021

Trauma
The emotional, psychological, and physiological residue from unrelenting, unmitigating toxic stress.

It is how a person experiences an event or environment that is traumatizing.

Secondary Trauma
Professionals working with traumatized populations are at high risk for secondary trauma.

Particularly true for those expected to hold space for those experiencing the effects of personal, community, institutional, or compounding traumas.

Source: All of Us: Building Trauma-Responsive Skills & Cultures, 2023 Lodestar. Prepared for the California Department of Public Health.
“The idea that we can be immersed in suffering and loss and not be harmed is as unrealistic as expecting to walk through water without getting wet...”

Rachel Naomi Remen, MD
Government public health workers & other essential workers played a crucial role in pandemic response. Their mental health suffered in the process.

Public health workers were more likely to report COVID related post traumatic stress. Almost a quarter of public health agency employees (24.7%) reported at least 3 symptoms of posttraumatic stress.

Post traumatic stress may have been driven by experiences such as: 41% felt bullied, threatened, or harassed.

Insufficient access to life-saving equipment (f.e. Personal Protective Equipment) 32% reported intent to leave in the next year.

Public health and health care leaders should invest in systems-level interventions to promote a healthy workplace environment.

The mental health effects of the pandemic on public health and frontline workers remain and require vigilance to ensure the country is ready to address the next health crisis.
TRAUMA RESPONSIVENESS & TRUST
THE 6 R’S AND 5 N’S

**Realize** trauma is universal.

**Remember** every encounter carries risk of activation.

**Recognize** expressions of trauma when they present.

**Respond** from an expanded skill set.

**Resist** re-traumatization.

**Restore:** agency, trust, safety, connection, well-being.

**NOTICE**
Self awareness. Awareness of others

**NAME**
Identify the emotion. *Name it to tame it*

**NORMALIZE**
I/we are not alone. Universality of experiences.

**NAVIGATE**
Choice. Self-regulation.

**NURTURE**
Self-compassion. Care of others
What’s the matter with you?

What matters most to you?
Food as Medicine

Validated 2-Item Food Security Screen

If positive Rx:

1. CalFresh enrollment
2. Food Banks / Resource Sheet
3. Food onsite
Resource Connections 15,000+

Social Needs Screen 50%
GLOBAL HEALTH TRENDS
A liveable future for all is possible, if we take urgent climate action: flagship UN report

20 March 2023 | Climate and Environment

The latest Lancet Countdown report underscores the imperative for a health-centred response in a world facing irreversible harms.

https://www.lancetcountdown.org/2023-report

No place is safe: New national report on climate change details sweeping effects

Nov 14, 2023
CAL MATTERS

At COP 28, global consensus on how climate change affects health

Dec 13, 2023 12:00 PM EST
PBS NEWS HOUR

COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate & Health:
https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/cop28-uae-declaration-on-climate-and-health
One Health

**One Health** is the idea that the health of people is connected to the health of animals and our shared environment.

When we protect one, we help protect all.

[www.cdc.gov/onehealth](http://www.cdc.gov/onehealth)

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**Climate Change Through a One Health Lens**

- **Wildfires** displace wild animals → lead to hazardous air quality for humans and animals, and disrupt the human-animal bond during emergency evacuations
- **Hurricanes** can lead to an increase in zoonotic diseases such as leptospirosis
- **Flooding** on farms can increase the spread of antimicrobial resistance onto crops
- **Warmer weather** expands tick habitat, increasing risk of vector-borne diseases
- **Drought** reduces agriculture production and food security
- **Forced migration** of prey species alters coyote prey-seeking behaviors, increasing human bite risk
- **Harmful algal blooms** are a health hazard to humans and fatal to companion animals

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**One Health at CDPH Center for Environmental Health**

- Filling the gap: Convening a statewide One Health collaboration
- Prioritizing representation from environmental groups
- Understanding the need for improved One Health efforts in CA through State agency One Health focus groups
- Building and strengthening local and State partner networks
- Promoting a One Health approach through guidance, input, and outreach

Contact: Kim Conway, DVM, MPVM, One Health Lead
Center for Environmental Health, CDPH | Kim.Conway@cdph.ca.gov
Q: “As a health expert, what can you tell people drinking hot tea and eating spicy food during a heat wave?”

“We’re at the center of an unfortunate Venn diagram with multiple overlapping emergencies. We have racism, social inequity, climate change, poor air, and a virus.”
Extreme heat is increasing with climate change and has significant health impacts – it kills more people directly than any other climate-related hazard.

In California, high summer temperatures are projected to result in ~11,300 excess deaths a year by 2050.

September 2022’s record-breaking, widespread extreme heat was associated with 395 excess deaths (5% more than would be expected) during this time period.

Highest increases in deaths among those aged 25-64, Hispanic or Latino, and from South Coast region.

Heat impacts are not felt equally - disproportionate consequences for Californians facing inequities, those medically vulnerable, and other population groups.

“Racism – not race – is the risk factor for [the rapid] spread [of COVID among communities of color].”
– Thomas Sequist

“Racial injustice and climate injustice are both rooted in the evil notion that some lives are more important than others.”
– David Lammy

Source: CAT-PHWG: COVID-19 Equity Lessons for the Climate Crisis (Recording): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJZ3b9R4AnA
“Jay Wit Da Trey”
(Spoken Word Artist & MC)

Available for Events all 2024!!!
Graduations, Conferences, workshops and more!

For Booking Info and Rates please Contact:
650-391-4913
Jaywitdatrey3@gmail.com
Health Professionals Must Motivate Climate Action

Protecting health is the top reason Americans select for supporting climate solutions:

- **76%** motivated by health
- **71%** motivated by good paying jobs

**68% of Americans trust health professionals** for information on climate change

Source: *ecoAmerica / American Climate Perspectives Survey 2021, Vol. II*
Dr. Diana Ramos Appointed Surgeon General
Governor Gavin Newsom today announced the appointment of accomplished public health leader Dr. Diana Ramos as California Surgeon General. Dr. Ramos has more than three decades of cross-cutting experience and expertise with a focus on health equity and reproductive health. She currently serves at the California Department of Public Health’s Center for Healthy Communities, where she oversees the state’s public health and prevention programs.

California Expands Access and Protections for Reproductive Health Care

California Gov. Gavin Newsom signs legislative package protecting and expanding abortion access into law

Los Angeles Times
Newsom signs 13 abortion protection and reproductive health bills

Abortion is legal and protected in California
Abortion remains safe, legal, and accessible in California, whether or not you live in the state. This website has current and accurate information about how you can access abortion services in California.

https://www.abortionfinder.org/
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & GLOBAL HEALTH

Potential for impact on global health
- AI-enabled population health
- Virtual Health Assistant for Frontline health workers (clinical decision support) and Patients

Challenges
- Data Availability & Quality
- Data Privacy & Ethics
- Regulatory & Policy Challenges
- Health System Integration & Capacity

Equity
- Potential to amplify racism, sexism, ableism, and other forms of discrimination, if unchecked.
- Equitable AI requires people have agency and control over how they interact with it.
- Continuous oversight – policy & advocacy.
- Respect human life, dignity, and rights.

To quantify the risk of dengue fever severity, researchers applied machine learning algorithms to administrative datasets from a large tertiary care hospital in Thailand.

Remote sensing data and machine learning algorithms were used by researchers in China to characterize and predict the transmission patterns of Zika virus globally.

Researchers internationally (e.g., USA, China, Belarus) applied machine learning and signal processing methods to digital chest radiographs to identify tuberculosis cases and drug-resistant tuberculosis cases.

Machine learning models were applied to administrative data from South Africa to predict length of stay among health-care workers in underserved communities.

WHAT CAN I DO?
Cultural humility—commitment to personal and institutional transformation by realizing and redressing power, privilege, and prejudice

In 1998, Melanie Tervalon and Jann Murray-García published a groundbreaking article that challenged the concept of “cultural competency” with the concept of “cultural humility” (Tervalon, 1998). Accepting cultural humility means accepting that we can never be fully culturally competent. Cultural humility means

1. committing to lifelong learning and critical self-reflection;
2. realizing our power, privilege, and prejudice (bias);
3. redressing power imbalances for respectful partnerships; and
4. promoting institutional accountability.

Humility is the noble choice to forgo your status, and to use your influence for the good of others before yourself. It is to hold your power in service of others. (Dickson, 2011).
acknowledge

reflect

language

intersectionality

messengers

platforms

ACKNOWLEDGE
Acknowledge the past and present harms. Accountability. Trauma responsiveness.

REFLECT
Reflect on lessons learned – from COVID19 pandemic & throughout history.

LANGUAGE
Accessible language and combine facts with real stories.

INTERSECTIONALITY
The interconnected nature of social categorizations (race, class, gender), our identities, and our systems.

MESSENGERS
Different communities trust different messengers.

PLATFORMS
Social media has power in amplifying credible messengers.
Tools & Skills for You

- Emotional Intelligence
  - Kindness, empathy & compassion
- Inclusive leadership
  - Building trust
  - Trauma responsiveness

Going Deeper

- Data disaggregation
  - Analytic skills
  - Curiosity
  - Problem Solving

- Thinking
  - Adaptability
  - Resilience
  - Creativity

Engagement

- Communication & collaboration
- Cultural humility, Gender literacy
- Redefining who the experts are
- Listen & Learn

Systems

- De-colonization beyond theory
- Unlearning white saviorism
- Intersectional approaches

Leveraging Technology

- Artificial Intelligence
- Promoting accessibility
- Data, Narrative, Action
One Health Workforce Academy
Free, comprehensive, and available in several languages.
Calling all Bureactivists & Advocrats!

Internships and Opportunities

FALL COHORT (Sep 4 to Dec 13, 2024) Applications open in March 2024

Please visit the webpage for the latest program information.

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPDE/Pages/Internship-Program.aspx
Purpose:

- You love it
- You are great at it
- The world needs it
- You are paid for it
SCIENCE TO ACTION
Radical transformational leadership is leading change from the universal values of *dignity, equity, compassion and humility* to transform self, people, systems and cultures towards equity, antiracism, and sustainable results.

Universal values are values that apply to everyone, everywhere, and leaves no one behind, including your worst enemy. Universal values *enable us to transcend differences, to find common ground, and to solve problems together.* We strive to embody and promote universal values in every interaction and in every conversation.

https://www.radicallytransform.org/
Personal Change

Workforce Change

Institutional Change

Policy, Systems, Environment (PSE) Change
How can I be a Racial Equity Champion? On Monday?

**Structural**
- Talk about it at work and at home, weekly then daily (Normalize, Organize, Operationalize)

**Institutional**
- Get involved in a club or organization doing connected work.
- Connect with community voices & those who have been leading the work
- Join or lead in action – protests, advocacy groups, volunteering.
- Apply tools from the Racial Equity Resource Hub: [https://sgc.ca.gov/tools/racial-equity/getting-started.html](https://sgc.ca.gov/tools/racial-equity/getting-started.html)

**Interpersonal**
- Observe your daily thoughts, words, actions with clients, patients, and co-workers
- Start a 21-day Racial Equity Challenge [https://21dayequitychallenge.com/](https://21dayequitychallenge.com/)

**Internalized**
- Read, watch, and listen. F.e. How to Be An Anti-Racist by Ibram X. Kendi
- Check-in with yourself and Ask “How did I practice and promote anti-racism today?”
Continuum on Becoming an Anti-Racist Multicultural Organization

**EXCLUSIVE**

An Exclusionary Institution

Intentionally and publicly enforces the racist status quo throughout institution. Openly maintains the dominant group’s power & privilege.

**PASSIVE**

A “Club” Institution

Continues to intentionally maintain white power & privilege with formal policies, practices, teachings, and decision making. “We don’t have a problem”

**SYMBOLIC CHANGE**

A Compliance Organization

Makes official policy pronouncements regarding multicultural diversity. 

But...

“Not those who make waves”

Is still relatively unaware of continuing patterns of privilege, paternalism, and control.

**IDENTITY**

An Affirming Organization

Growing understanding of racism as barrier to effective diversity.

But...

Institutional structures and culture that maintain white power and privilege still intact and relatively untouched.

**STRUCTURAL CHANGE**

A Transforming Institution

Implements structures, policies, and practices with inclusive decision making and other forms of power sharing on all levels of the institutions life and work

**FULLY INCLUSIVE**

Anti-Racist Multicultural Organization in a Transformed Society

Future vision of an institution and wider community that has overcome systemic racism and all other forms of oppression

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Source: [https://philanos.org/resources/Documents/Conference%202020/Pre-Read%20PDFs/Continuum_AntiRacist.pdf](https://philanos.org/resources/Documents/Conference%202020/Pre-Read%20PDFs/Continuum_AntiRacist.pdf) Adapted and condensed by Ayam Nouiouat.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>STANCE TOWARDS COMMUNITY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ignore: Deny access to decision-making processes</td>
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<td>Inform: Provide the community with relevant information</td>
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<td>Consult: Gather input from the community</td>
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<tr>
<td>Involve: Ensure community needs and assets are integrated into process &amp; inform planning</td>
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<td>Collaborate: Ensure community capacity to play a leadership role in implementation of decisions</td>
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<td><strong>MESSAGE TO COMMUNITY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Your Voice, Needs &amp; Interests do not matter</td>
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<tr>
<td>We will keep you informed</td>
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<td>We care what you think</td>
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<td>You are making us think, (and therefore act) differently about the issue</td>
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<td>Your leadership and expertise are critical to how we address the issue</td>
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<td><strong>ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
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<td>Closed door meeting</td>
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<td>Misinformation</td>
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<td>Systematic</td>
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<td>MOU’s with Community-based organizations</td>
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<td>Community organizing</td>
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<td>Citizen advisory committees</td>
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<td>Open Planning Forums with Citizen Polling</td>
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<td>Community-driven planning</td>
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<td>Participatory budgeting</td>
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<td>Cooperatives</td>
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<td><strong>RESOURCE ALLOCATION RATIOS</strong></td>
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<td>100% Systems Admin</td>
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<td>20-50% Systems Admin</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-100% Community partners and community-driven processes ideally generate new value and resources that can be invested in solutions</td>
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</tbody>
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DATA

NARRATIVE

ACTION

Framing, Storytelling, Messaging

Advocacy, Civic Engagement, Social Enterprise
HEALTH EQUITY
HOW CAN WE USE POLICY & ADVOCACY TO IMPACT CHANGE?
Civic agency and association
- Collective efficacy
- Equitable access to information
- Opportunities for civic engagement
- Vibrant arts, culture, and spiritual life
- Freedom from stigma, and oppression
- Social support for civil rights and human rights

APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA

In July of 1986, the UC Regents voted to divest $3.1 billion from companies doing business with the apartheid government. It was the largest university divestment in the country.

SUDAN

In 2006, UC Regents voted to divest from companies that contributed to the Sudanese government’s genocide against the Black African population.

FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY

Fully divested >$1 billion from fossil fuel industry, becoming the largest school in the USA to do so.

TODAY?

What is within our power? As students? As researchers? As an institution?

How can our advocacy influence policy?

Sources: 1.
Health is political.

"When we fight for safety for the marginalized, what we're talking about is safety from being discriminated against, harassed, assaulted, fired, or killed by the system and supremacist culture, which has historically criminalized, subjugated, exploited, and violated them and continues to do so." - Michelle MiJung Kim

Civic engagement is tied to community health.

2. Unity icons created by Freepik - Flaticon
WHAT IS THE ROLE OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, IF AT ALL?

Florence Nightingale (1800s) was a strong advocate for her patients, writing thousands of letters about the awful conditions her patients endured.

Dr. Mona Hanna Attisha sounded the alarm on the Flint Water crisis (2015), having discovered thousands of children were being poisoned lead, even after state officials attempted to discredit her.

Healthcare workers around the world became advocates for health during the COVID-19 Pandemic (2020), demanding action on vital concerns and needs such as inadequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

In Myanmar (2021), doctors and nurses led the “white coat revolution”, defying the military coup, protesting the systems that did not allow them to prioritize care for their patients.

"2024: The Ultimate Election Year Around the World"

National elections are scheduled or expected in at least 64 countries, as well as the Europe Union, which all together represent almost half the global population.

The US Healthy People 2030 initiative has set a target of 58.4% voter participation by 2030 (2018 was 53.4% of US citizens 18 years and older reported voting in federal, state, and/or local elections).

"2024 is not just an election year. It’s perhaps the election year."

Source: https://time.com/6550920/world-elections-2024/
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disruptive Power</th>
<th>Narrative Power</th>
<th>Political Power</th>
<th>Economic Power</th>
<th>Modeling Power</th>
<th>Healing Power</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The ability to disrupt the status quo, challenge business as usual, and dramatize what’s wrong with current conditions.</td>
<td>The ability to tell the story of what’s happening in the world and why, capture the imagination of growing numbers of people, and change mass consciousness and culture.</td>
<td>The ability to mobilize voters, elect movement-aligned and responsive representatives in government, and influence legislative agendas at local, state, and national levels.</td>
<td>The ability to redirect resources at the system level—from local to state to national—away from unfavorable policies, programs, or institutions and toward movement-aligned alternatives.</td>
<td>The ability to build, demonstrate, and promote alternatives to existing institutions, systems, and practices.</td>
<td>The ability to alleviate and repair harm at the level of the individual, community, or society.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: The 6 Power Framework was originally produced by Labor Activist, Ai-Jen Poo, and expanded upon later by the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights.
“There is an art to flocking: staying separate enough not to crowd each other, aligned enough to maintain a shared direction, and cohesive enough to always move towards each other”
- Adrienne Marie Brown

Source: Starling Murmuration. Daniel Dencescu. The Atlantic 2/24